

a great Floridian like Craig recognized at the national level. I am confident he will continue to make all of Florida proud of his leadership.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if there is anything else I can do to help expedite the process of confirming Florida's Craig Fugate to this important post. He is the right person at the right time.

Sincerely,

CHARLIE CRIST,
Florida Governor.

MAY 5, 2009.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL:

The undersigned organizations are members of the Stafford Act Coalition and are writing to ask for swift confirmation of William Craig Fugate as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The undersigned organizations and associations represent state and local officials, the nation's realtors, surveyors, conservation interests, and others with a stake in flood management and response, disaster mitigation and emergency response and recovery. The Stafford Act Coalition supports hazard mitigation programs and maintaining the intent of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act.

It is critical that FEMA leadership be put in place swiftly and not delayed. Currently, our nation is addressing the H1N1 flu and the response and recovery for multiple other disasters involving flooding, severe storms, tornadoes and wildfires. We encourage the Senate to confirm Mr. Craig Fugate as FEMA Administrator as swiftly as possible.

Thank you for your support of emergency management issues. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Kristin Robinson in NEMA's Washington, D.C. Office at (202) 624-5459 or krobinson@csg.org.

Sincerely,

Peter King, American Public Works Association; Larry Decker, American Red Cross; Larry Larson, Association of State Flood Plain Managers; Chris Whately, Council of State Governments; Martha Braddock, International Association of Emergency Managers; Dalen Harris, National Association of Counties; Amy Linehan, National Association of Development Agencies; Susan Gilson, National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies; Kristin Robinson, National Emergency Management Association; Laura Schepis, National Rural Electric Cooperative Association; David Conrad, National Wildlife Federation; Franklin Nutter, Reinsurance Association of America.

NATIONAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, April 29, 2009.

Hon. HARRY REID,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER REID AND MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL: As the President of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), I am writing on behalf of the emergency management directors from the states, the U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia. We ask for the Senate's immediate action to confirm William Craig

Fugate of Florida as the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). It is critical that FEMA leadership be put in place swiftly and not delayed.

Currently, our nation is addressing the H1N1 flu, preparing for the upcoming hurricane season, and continuing the response and recovery for multiple other disasters involving flooding, severe storms, tornadoes and wildfires. Mr. Fugate has been a leader in the emergency management community and in NEMA for years and he is widely respected by his peers across the nation. NEMA respectfully encourages the Committee to confirm Mr. Craig Fugate as FEMA Administrator as swiftly as possible.

Thank you for your support of emergency management. If you or your staff has any questions, please contact Kristin Robinson in NEMA's Washington, D.C. Office at (202) 624-5459 or krobinson@csg.org.

Sincerely,

NANCY DRAGANI,
NEMA President and Director of
the Ohio Emergency Management Agency.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, it is my hope the hold that is on Craig for an issue unrelated to Craig—related to the question of FEMA putting a flood zone declaration on some areas of New Orleans—it is my hope that we can resolve that and get on. After all, this is now 1 week into the month of May. Remember, hurricane season officially starts June 1.

We need to have Craig Fugate in place so that FEMA is ready to go at this particular time, when there is another challenge facing the gulf coast and the Atlantic coast, and potentially the Pacific coast. I hope the Senate is going to act quickly on his confirmation.

Mr. President, I yield the floor and suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mrs. SHAHEEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask consent to speak as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF INEZ TENENBAUM AND ROBERT ADLER

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, yesterday President Obama announced he would nominate Inez Tenenbaum as the new Chair of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Robert Adler as the new CPSC Commissioner. The President also announced he would restore this Commission from a three- to a five-commissioner body and provide \$107 million for the agency in its fiscal year 2010 budget, a 71-percent increase in that budget over President Bush's request for fiscal year 2007.

I share President Obama's commitment to consumer safety and his goal of restoring the CPSC to prominence as our Nation's premier consumer watch-

dog agency. CPSC oversees the safety of over 15,000 consumer products, but for far too long it was hindered by a lack of funding, a lack of staff, outdated authorities and failed leadership. We all remember what happened after that. Faulty cribs that trapped and killed infants; toys coated in lead paint that endangered toddlers and children; magnetic toys that, when swallowed, caused serious injuries and even a child's death.

Most Americans were shocked when they read the stories. They assumed that if they put it on a shelf in a store in America, somebody took a look at it. That is not always the case. Sadly, this agency, which had a special responsibility for dangerous products, had fallen into a state of disrepair, not just in terms of adequate staffing and resources but, unfortunately, in the previous administration, not adequate commitment. There was a belief this had to continue to be a small and virtually unheard of agency at a time when exports into the United States were flooding the market. If there were ever a time when we needed a consumer watchdog, it was over the last 10 years, as more and more of these imports from foreign countries came onto our shores.

We learned the hard way. We learned with pet food from China that had been spiked with melamine for economic reasons and ended up killing a lot of dogs and cats that people dearly loved. We learned it with the toys with lead paint and the toys that were dangerous. We learned this agency was not up to the task.

I can remember meeting with some of the people who worked there. Some of them were good, hard-working people. But when I met with the man whose name was Bob, who was the toy tester, I found that his laboratory for testing toys exported to the United States looked about as bad as my workbench in my basement at home. Unfortunately, he didn't have any kind of technical equipment. What Bob had done was draw a couple marks on the wall, one was at about 4 feet, another at 6 feet, and Bob would take the toy and drop it from 4 feet to see if it fell apart into little pieces that the kids might swallow. If it made that test, Bob took it up to 6 feet and dropped it again. That was the Federal toy testing program for the United States of America.

We learned the hard way, when a lot of dangerous toys were sold and a lot of them went untested. That had to change. With the leadership of one of my colleagues from Arkansas, Senator MARK PRYOR, we embarked on a reauthorization of this agency and gave it new authorities and new powers. Sadly, some of the holdovers—one Commissioner from a previous administration—complained, said she didn't understand why we needed to do this, that we were going too far in giving more power to this agency. It tells you a lot about the mindset of the agency in the old days.

Then we matched that with appropriations funds from an appropriations subcommittee that I chair to make sure they had enough money to hire testers and buy equipment and to make certain they could take a look at products before they arrived in the warehouses of America and on the store shelves to make certain they were safe before they came in.

It went along very slowly, when it should have gone quickly because the right leadership was not at the agency. When President Obama was sworn in, one of my first calls was to urge him to fill the slots at the Consumer Product Safety Commission with true consumer advocates. Our passage of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act—which President Bush had signed into law—by an overwhelming vote of 89 to 3 in the Senate was an indication this was a bipartisan issue, as it should have been. That law virtually eliminated lead from toys and children's products, made sure the products met national standards, authorized a doubling of the Consumer Product Safety Commission budget, and strengthened the Commission's ability to protect Americans.

Yesterday, President Obama's announcement of these two vacancies being filled builds on that effort to make sure the Commission has the right leadership in place to implement a law in a comprehensive, yet common-sense, manner.

Inez Tenenbaum is someone I know. She is a long-time advocate for children and families. She was the former superintendent of education in South Carolina. She oversaw an agency larger than the Consumer Product Safety Commission in both budget and staff, and under her tenure student achievement in that State improved the fastest in the Nation.

Robert Adler, consumer advocate and expert on the Consumer Product Safety Commission, was a professor at the University of North Carolina, where he worked extensively on consumer protection and product liability. He has also served as an attorney and advisor to previous CPSC Commissioners. I strongly support President Obama's nominees. I am glad he is going to bring about a new day at this agency. It is long overdue. Millions of Americans, millions of families and kids are counting on this agency to make sure that when products make the shelves in America, they are safe for American consumers.

AMERICA'S GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT CAPACITY ACT

Mr. DURBIN. Earlier this year, President Obama announced a new policy for Afghanistan and Pakistan beginning to really focus important resources and attention on those countries—resources that were, tragically, diverted during the war in Iraq.

I was honored today to be invited for a lunch with President Zardari of Paki-

stan and President Karzai of Afghanistan. They are now working together—and that was not always the case—to stop the spread of the Taliban and al-Qaida. They are starting to do things which I think should have been done a long time ago. For example, I was surprised to learn when I visited Afghanistan a little over a year ago that we had fewer than 10 agricultural experts in that country. We know that country, which was once a prolific exporter of agricultural products, has now descended to a point where the major export is poppy and heroin, which, of course, fuels the underground economy and fuels the Taliban in their efforts to bring terrorism to Afghanistan and Pakistan. Well, to learn that we have fewer than 10 agricultural experts working on the ground in Afghanistan to try to change this was disappointing. This administration, the new Obama administration, has made a commitment to raise that number to over 50 in a hurry, as they should, so that we will be able to counsel those in agriculture in Afghanistan about lucrative, profitable crops that will not be feeding terrorism. That is one of the things that needs to be done, not just the military side but the economic side as well.

We understand—and Secretary Clinton has said such—that if we are going to be successful in Afghanistan and Pakistan, we have to bring this effort down to ground level, not just to suppress the violence but to make certain we build a civil economy and a civil government that can sustain democratic and free growth in those two countries. I was glad to be part of that effort today. I believe there is a lot more to do. I join with Senators KIT BOND of Missouri, PATTY MURRAY of Washington, and CHRIS DODD of Connecticut, as well as SHELDON WHITEHOUSE of Rhode Island, in introducing a bill that is called the Increasing America's Global Development Capacity Act, to improve our Nation's capacity to undertake global development activities.

The bill would triple the number of USAID Foreign Service officers by 2012. If we implement this legislation, in 3 years USAID will have 3,000 talented, committed Americans serving in the world's most difficult locations, helping to improve the lives of others, and showing the world what America is all about. I would much rather beef up the USAID than run the risk of sending more American soldiers to face the dangers of war in those foreign countries. I think we can help win over the hearts and minds of people around the world if we have the right American ambassador in a civilian capacity using diplomacy and development as major tools.

The President's strategy wisely emphasizes training the Afghan army and building up the police; a renewed effort to deal with the Taliban's safe havens in Pakistan; and a long overdue civilian surge in State Department and U.S.

Agency for International Development personnel, with particular emphases on diplomacy, agriculture, good governance, and job creation.

It is unfortunate that more than 7 years after the war in Afghanistan began we are only now providing sufficient civilian resources and experts to help win the peace in Afghanistan.

The Bush administration neglected to focus on post-war needs in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Once our brave military men and women accomplished their early military goals, few if any plans existed for significant investments in strengthening critical economic, governance, and rule of law institutions.

The results have been sadly obvious. Our military has had to stay longer than anticipated while we play catch up on these basic building blocks that are needed for any true long-term stability.

This failure to invest in and deploy our civilian experts has placed an unfair burden on our military and their families.

Our military leaders have recognized the critical nature of the civilian development and diplomatic component of American engagement abroad.

Secretary of Defense Gates has said it clearly:

What is clear to me is that there is a need for a dramatic increase in spending on the civilian instruments of national security—diplomacy, strategic communications, foreign assistance, civic action, and economic reconstruction and development.

He continued;

One of the most important lessons of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan is that military success is not sufficient to win: economic development, institution-building and the rule of law, promoting internal reconciliation, good governance, providing basic services to the people, training and equipping indigenous military and police forces, strategic communications, and more—these, along with security, are essential ingredients for long-term success.

Secretary Clinton has similarly said:

In order for us to pursue an ambitious foreign policy to both solve and manage problems, to address our interests and advance our values, we have to reform both State and USAID. And to do so, we have to create a Department and an agency that are funded the right way, where the people doing this work have the tools and authorities that they need. This is particularly important in dangerous regions like Iraq and Afghanistan.

Our Nation's ability to help others improve their lives is a critical component of American foreign policy. Development initiatives help stem HIV/AIDS and other global pandemics; provide food, clean water, and sanitation to the world's poor; strengthen democratic processes and institutions; and foster economic growth.

These efforts demonstrate our leadership and concern, foster goodwill and an appreciation of American values, and provide alternatives to the despair that can lead others to turn against us.

That is why a recent story in the New York Times about Afghanistan is so tragic. The article's title "G.I.'s